

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 October 1996

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes:

19 September 1996

B. Dates of next meetings:

21 November 1996

19 December 1996

C. CFA Procedures and Policies. Proposed additions and amendments to rules.

D. Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement. Selection of bridge type; update.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 17/Oct/96-1, National Museum of the American Indian, the Mall at 4th Street and Jefferson Drive. Design development.
(Previous: CFA 16/May/96-1.)

B. General Services Administration

CFA 17/Oct/96-2, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Metropolitan Field Office, F and 4th Streets, N.W. Art-in-Architecture Program. Proposed sculptural work.

C. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

CFA 17/Oct/96-3, Washington Navy Yard. Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters: Buildings 197 and 197E, parking garage, and adjoining site improvements. Design development.
(Previous: CFA 15/Feb/96-10.)

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 October 1996

D. District of Columbia Department of
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. Appendix II.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 97-01	2311 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. The Woodward Condominiums	Alterations to driveway and new handicapped access - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed widening of existing driveway, new handicapped access walkway, new paving, landscaping and future restoration of terra-cotta balustrades that had been removed. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (S.L. 96-61).

S.L. 97-02	3029 Klinge Road, N.W. Tregaron Ltd. Part.	New custodian's house - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept design for a new custodian's house. Submit working drawings and landscape plan for review when ready.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-121	3019 Dumbarton Street, N.W.	Remove 2-story
HPA. 96-291	Steve Linder	rear porch -
	Residence	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed removal of dilapidated two-story rear porch which does not contribute to the character of the historic district. No objection to replacement deck and iron railings as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 25 September 1996.

O.G. 96-140	1633 29th Street, N.W.	Porch enclosure
HPA. 96-329	Mackall Square	- conceptual
	Residence	

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case superseded by case O.G. 96-148.

O.G. 96-142	1244 Potomac Street, N.W.	Addition of bay
HPA. 96-334	Lex Golden	window on rear
	Residence	- permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is not visible from public space. Refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

O.G. 96-144	3256 M Street, N.W.	Rooftop
HPA. 96-343	Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile	antennas -
	Georgetown Park Phase II	conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of installation of six (6) rooftop antennas (painted light grey) at Georgetown Park Phase II, located on the C&O Canal at West Market Space. Submit working drawings for review when ready. Recommend further study of the M Street grouping to make it less visible from public space.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-147	3028 Q Street, N.W.	Alterations
HPA. 96-348	Joan Stanton Residence	to rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to rear as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 25 October 1996. The revision relocates stair to rear yard which makes it invisible from public space.

O.G. 96-148	1633 29th Street, N.W.	Enclosure of
HPA. 96-349	Mackall Square Johns residence	porch - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for enclosure of existing rear porch as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 1 October 1996. Note is made that the property is subject to an easement held by the Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown which is monitoring the work shown in the supplementals. (See attachment.) Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 96-149	1603 35th Street, N.W.	Alterations and
HPA. 96-350	James M. Hayter Residence	new garage - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed two-story "carriage house" on alley, subject to BZA approval. Recommend further refinement, especially at cornice. No objection to alterations proposed for rear wing of house, including reduced second floor deck as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 1 October 1996. Recommend retention of original front doors in place as part of important historic fabric of this residence. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-150	3141 M Street, N.W.	Information kiosk
HPA. 96-351	(1201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.) Riggs Bank	- conceptual

ACTION: No objection to the concept of an information kiosk at this location on the M Street front of the Riggs Bank parking lot, the purpose of which would be to benefit the historic district generally. Recommend developing and submitting a design unique to this purpose for further review.

O.G. 96-151	1079 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Sidewalk cafe
HPA. 96-352	The Levy Group Wrap Works	and projecting sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sidewalk cafe as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated October 1996 which indicate railing following similar curve as metal marquee above. No objection to proposed projecting sign as shown in drawings which indicate name ONLY.

O.G. 96-152	1561 35th Street, N.W.	Addition
HPA. 96-353	Elissa and Michael Baly III Residence	of rooftop conservatory - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of rooftop conservatory.

O.G. 96-153	2515 Q Street, N.W.	Rear dormer
HPA. 96-360	James and Katherine Moule Residence	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of rear dormer. Supplemental working drawings received and dated 15 October 1996 conform to previous recommendations made during concept review. See previous Action (O.G. 96-107).

17 October 1996

APPENDIX II

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-154	3017 P Street, N.W.	Alterations to
HPA. 96-361	John and Susan Mullens Residence	front and rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 96-98).

STATUS REPORT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-112	3208 Reservoir Road, N.W.	Addition of
HPA. 96-268	Reza Amirkhalili Residence	fourth floor - conceptual

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 5 December 1996 for further discussion at the written request of the applicant.

O.G. 96-124	2701-2715 Olive Street, N.W.	14 new townhouses
HPA. 96-302	1231-1235 28th Street, N.W.	- design
	1228-1234 27th Street, N.W.	development -
	Washington International/ Phillips School	conceptual

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 7 November 1996 for further discussion with applicant.

ADDENDUM

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 96-104	1815 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	New metal door
HPA. 96-274	BLIXN Koons et. al. Einstein Brothers Bagels	- permit

POSTSCRIPT: Following an informational presentation made to the Old Georgetown Board on 1 October 1996, the members reluctantly agreed to the installation of a metal door at the street front as requested by the District of Columbia Government for emergency access to the electrical room for the building. The approval was based primarily on the Board's belief that the building itself is not a contributing element to the historic district.

O.G. 96-151	1079 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Sidewalk cafe
HPA. 96-352	The Levy Group Wrap Works	and projecting sign - permit

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 5 December 1996 for further discussion with applicant.

RE: O.G. 96-148

09:23:08 15:43 FAX 7038393287

Sep-23-96 16:23 altmann & vitt

BACOVA GUILD

202-628-6932

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P.O

ATTN: BOSE MARTINEZ
RE: 1633 29TH ST NW

Box 3603 Georgetown Station, Washington, D.C. 20007

September 23, 1996

By Fax: 540/839-3287

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin I. Johns
c/o The Bacova GuildRe: Easement 38844
1633 29th Street, N.W.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johns:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown (hereinafter the Foundation) has reviewed your letters of August 28, 1996 and September 11, 1996 and the drawings submitted by Robert A. Bell of 8-22-96 and 9-9-96. Our response to your requests for approval are as follows:

1. Enclosed Porch. Enclosure of the existing porch is permissible. Please see our letter of May 14, 1996 to Ms. Catherine V. Hughes, Esq. answering questions submitted on your behalf. The porch on Mr. Bell's 8-22-96 and 9-9-96 drawings is not approved because it is an exterior extension of the existing porch.

You may reduce the enclosed porch proposal to the existing footprint of the existing porch and consider this letter as conceptual approval of same.

2. Barbecue. Only in your second letter of September 11, 1996, was there mention of a barbecue. Nor was there any label for same on any drawing submitted. If the chimney shown on Mr. Bell's drawing at the north wall of the house where the porch is attached is for a barbecue, this chimney notwithstanding the barbecue exception is not approved.

3. Driveway. The proposed driveway needs to be described in writing as to any topographical changes, cutting of trees, etc. See our letter of May 14, 1996 to Ms. Hughes. What is the round area on the drawing? A parking lot? Is this area proposed for paving?

4. Flying Bathroom, Northeast second story. The easement does not permit the demolition of the second story. Therefore, the Foundation cannot approve your proposal with regard to the flying bathroom.

Sincerely,

Chiswell D. Langhorne, Jr.
Presidentcc: Easement Enforcement Comm.
Encl: Page 1, Scheme A,
Page 3, Hughes 5/14/96

in Architects

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 October 1996

The meeting was convened at 10:10 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices in the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W.

Members present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harry G. Robinson III, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Carolyn Brody
Hon. Eden Rafshoon
Hon. Susan Porter Rose

Staff present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Mr. José Martínez-Canino

National Capital
Planning Commission
staff present: Margot Stephenson

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the minutes of the 19 September 1996 meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

21 November 1996
19 December 1996

C. CFA Procedures and Policies. Proposed additions and amendments to rules. The Chairman reviewed the history of this document, noting that it had been the "pro bono" work of former member Philip Buchen, President Ford's general counsel, in 1979. Some additions and minor changes were being proposed by the staff, but rather than go over the document line-by-line, it was decided to send each member a copy with the changes italicized and discuss them at a future meeting.

D. Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement. Selection of bridge type; update. The Secretary reported that the advisory committee on the bridge design had selected a scheme not favored by the Commission, one with a draw; but he stressed that this was a very preliminary decision and the Commission would have a chance to look at the designs. He said he would keep the members informed of any further action.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Smithsonian Institution

CFA 17/OCT/96-1, National Museum of the American Indian, the Mall at 4th Street and Jefferson Drive. Design development. (Previous: CFA 16/MAY/96-1.) Staff member Jeffrey Carson recalled the enthusiastic reception of the design for this museum at the May meeting. He introduced the director of the museum, Richard West, and the members of the design team and asked Harry Rombach from the Smithsonian to make the opening statements.

Mr. Rombach reported that full design funding had been granted in the 1997 appropriations bill, and he hoped that within eighteen months complete construction documents would be available. He said the budget was \$110 million, and Congress had asked the Smithsonian to look at possibly reducing the size of the building or increasing the fund-raising efforts, so that the Federal share of the construction costs might be reduced. In the efforts to respond to this request, changes were made that would reduce some program areas but keep the exhibition areas the same; in this way the budget had been maintained. Mr. Rombach said that since May attention had also been given to more mundane details of the design and to the location of necessary items such as cooling towers. He then turned the presentation over to Richard West.

Mr. West said he did not believe the changes that had been made had compromised the design; in fact he thought that from a programmatic viewpoint, it had actually improved as some of the "nitty-gritty" details had been confronted. He said the museum's private funding mandate had been reached ahead of the deadline, and he hoped that would encourage Congress to live up to its share of the funding. He said he was still cautiously optimistic that the museum would open in 2002.

The next speaker was landscape architect Roger Courtenay, representing EDAAW. He said he had continued to study the relationship of the building and its site to the Mall, and at this meeting he would be talking about site, landscape, and habitat issues. He said one of the things he had been working

on was the relationship of the museum's landscaping to the street, including the street trees and the entire Mall streetscape plan. He had also been working on the two main entrance points into the site--the northwest corner, where most Mall visitors would arrive, and the southeast corner, the entrance point for visitors coming from the Capitol or the Botanic Garden.

Mr. Courtenay said the concept of recalling the original site conditions--especially the existence of Tiber Creek and a wetlands area--had strengthened as the design had developed, and now the visitor would begin the museum experience as soon as he stepped off the sidewalk and into the landscaped area. He showed a new element, a large cascade of water that essentially emerged right out of the building near the northwest entrance into the site. The water would wend its way along the north side of the building and then to the plaza and welcoming area and appear to descend under the building to emerge again at the southeast entrance area. He noted also that the development of the landscaping around the museum entrance and the southeast site entrance had strengthened the axial relationship with the Capitol dome.

On the south side, where a more formal relationship with Maryland Avenue was required, the plantings would be kept low and would be agricultural in reference, herb gardens and other useful plants, for example. On the north, a forest-type planting would provide shade for the visitors lining up for entrance and would give a sense of enclosure.

The Chairman asked if the water would be kept running throughout the year, and he was told that it would; Mr. Courtenay also said that there would be no art or artifact storage under water areas. He showed section drawings, pointing out that the approach walkway on the north would be raised somewhat so that visitors could look down into an outdoor performance area, and then showing how the landscaping, water, and natural stones came together at the east end to focus on the entrance to the building. He said the wetlands would actually be part of the stormwater management.

Architect Douglas Cardinal was then asked to discuss the changes that had taken place through design development and because of budgetary restraints. He said that in order to cut costs the layout was different, and that had had an effect on the sculptural form of the building. Classrooms and meeting rooms had been moved closer to the elevators, and the mezzanine restaurant and its service facilities had been removed, leaving only cafeteria food service; he said, however, that the space remained and the restaurant could be put back at some future time.

In regard to external changes, Mr. Cardinal said there had been several. He first showed drawings of the west elevation, which he said had changed substantially. It would be the first impression many visitors would have of the building, and he wanted it to have a mountain-like form. It had been made more monolithic than before, with the openings seemingly carved into it, emphasizing the east-west axis; even the service entrance seemed to have been carved into the facade. Mr. Cardinal observed that the water cascade at the north and the large rocks would further the mountain feeling. He commented that the mechanical system had been integrated into the cascade so that the steam from the cooling towers in the winter would be a part of the drama of the cascade. On the north, the building had been made more undulating and flowing, along with the waterway, and it had been opened up so that the visitor inside could pause and look out and see the Mall, the forest landscape and the water, as well as the outdoor performance area. On the east, views of the Capitol had been opened up, and the large overhangs had been pulled back and around to the north so that there was more emphasis on the east entry and the welcoming area, now on axis with the Capitol. The outdoor welcoming area had been pulled in, partially under the cantilevered forms, so that it would provide shade during the hottest hours of the day. On the south, the form of the Potomac and Maryland Avenue were emphasized and the sculpting done more subtly; it was noted that the high sun would create long shadows and change throughout the day. The tour group and bus entrance would be located here, and the shop entrance would open out into the garden space, where the visitor could see plants used to make items sold in the store; for example, reeds used to make baskets. On the curved section of this facade expressing the form of the Potomac (the indoor gathering space) there was only one long, very narrow window; this was done to reduce the amount of light coming into the Potomac, as well as emphasize a specific orientation to the sun during certain seasons.

Mr. Cardinal said changes had also been made to the dome. He said he had wanted to make it higher, since it was an important part of the composition, but at the same time the elders wanted it lower, more related to the earth. His solution was to start the spring of the dome from the third floor gallery level, so that it seemed to be growing out of the wall on the inside, while on the outside, the fourth floor had been cut back on the east to make the dome more prominent. It would have a stepped form and be made of cast stone.

The Chairman asked about the mechanical penthouse on the roof, which was more prominent than before. Mr. Cardinal said he had wanted the form of the penthouse to emphasize the east-west axis, and he had also inserted clerestory windows at its base to bring light to the offices below. Mr. Brown said he

would hate to have it any higher than necessary, and if light were needed it could be introduced by skylights, rather than raising the height of the penthouse. He also suggested that if it were shifted toward the Maryland Avenue axis, and closer to the south edge of the roof, it would not be so visible from the Mall, and from Maryland Avenue would look like the other buildings in the area with penthouses on top. He said he realized that moving it depended on what was going on underneath, but he thought that it could at least be pivoted somewhat.

The Chairman had two other comments. One concerned the slit window on the south side, which reminded him of the narrow openings in medieval architecture through which bows or guns were aimed. He recalled the criticism of the Hirshhorn Museum, that the window facing the Mall looked like a gun emplacement, and he thought that a similar allusion to defense might not be desirable. The Vice-Chairman asked him if he could suggest any way of avoiding this and still limit the amount of light coming into the Potomac. Mr. Brown suggested that two parallel slits might work or a wider window with darker glass; he thought Mr. Cardinal could come up with something that would solve the problem. Mr. Robinson commented that he had seen the opening in a different way--as a means of access, like the ladders used to enter the pueblos. The Chairman found that an interesting idea and suggested that two parallel slits would recall these ladders.

The Chairman's other comment concerned the opening up of the interior to Mall and Capitol views in exhibition areas. He understood the desirability of occasional orientation to the outside but noted the phenomenon that people tend to look at the brightest thing in a room, which would be the window, and this could be distracting in a museum. He thought the problem could be solved by the use of baffles, especially if the windows were placed in a slight alcove.

Mrs. Rafshoon asked Mr. Cardinal about the several stone samples he had brought. He explained that the stone would be striated, with the roughest at the bottom, close to the earth and the water. As it went up, the stone would become smoother. The cast stone for the dome would be made by adding ground stone used for the walls to the mix, so it would have the same warm, limestone color and would be the same texture as the upper walls. Mrs. Rafshoon asked what kind of surface would be under the water areas; Mr. Cardinal said there would be rocks and pebbles embedded in concrete.

Mr. Carson recalled that in May the Commission discussed the importance of the soffit material for the cantilevered forms; he asked if budget concerns had brought any changes in this area. Mr. Cardinal said stone would be too expensive, so

they were planning to use reinforced concrete in the same color, and in a sculptural design, as if it were carved by nature. The Chairman thought concrete might be even better than stone for this use, because it conveys its nature as a structural material.

Mr. Cardinal then showed a glass sample, saying that he had wanted it as clear as possible with the necessary ultra violet control; he said it would have a slight bluish, rather than greenish tint. The Chairman said it was now possible to get almost totally clear glass, but the budget might prohibit it.

There were no further comments, and the design development was unanimously approved, with the recommendations made. Exhibit A

(The agenda order was changed, and item II.c. discussed next.)

C. Department of the Navy, Chesapeake Division

CFA 17/OCT/96-3, Washington Navy Yard. Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters: Buildings 197 and 197E, parking garage, and adjoining site improvements. Design development. (Previous: CFA 15/FEB/96-10.) Staff member José Martínez recalled the previous review, noting that the Commission had been pleased with the urban treatment of the proposed complex, but had recommended that there be some coordination of visual elements along M Street and the waterfront with GSA's Southeast Federal Center development. He noted the presence of the model seen in February, and said the Navy would be presenting Phase I of a two-phase design, which would include renovation of Building 197, the addition of Building 197E, the garage structure, and site adjacent improvements. He said that although there would be two design phases, both would be built at the same time. He then introduced Larry Earle from the Navy.

Mr. Earle said the Navy expected all 5,000 people of the Naval Sea Systems Command to be occupying their new facilities by the year 2001, which would bring the population of the Navy Yard up to about 11,000. Mr. Earle then described the proposed building program. He said Building 197 would be adaptively reused, with a major addition to the east (197E); buildings 28 and 143 would be demolished for the parking structure, and major site improvements would be undertaken along Isaac Hull Avenue and other adjacent streets, as well as the waterfront. At a future date the Commission would see the design for a new structure, Building 201, which would replace several existing buildings overlooking the waterfront, and the adaptive reuse of twin 19th century buildings with a new infill structure. Mr. Earle then introduced architect Jim

Luckey from Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, and landscape architect Tim Rorvig from JJR.

Mr. Rorvig began the presentation. He showed a plan of the area to be developed (according to the master plan), and said they would be concentrating on the main entrance off M Street and using Isaac Hull, Sicard, and Patterson streets as a one-way loop road; they would attempt to minimize the impact of the amount of traffic that would be introduced into the Yard by separating certain types of traffic from the main flow.

Taking the members on a "walk" through this part of the Navy Yard, Mr. Rorvig and Mr. Luckey described their plan. Mr. Rorvig said there were three elements of the plan that would complement the buildings--the Isaac Hull and Patterson avenues streetscape and the elements that comprised it, the pocket parks (east-west connectors between proposed buildings), and a new waterfront park.

The entrance at M and 6th streets would be widened, and there would be a new gatehouse, designed in the low-key Navy Yard vocabulary. A brick-piered iron fence would run from the Navy Yard to the Southeast Federal Center. Honey locust trees, set in planting beds within brick sidewalk paving, would be spaced every 40 feet on Isaac Hull and Patterson avenues. This tree was selected because of its durability, moderate size and fine-textured foliage, which would not hide the buildings. The pocket parks were then described. They would replace paved areas usually filled with cars, and would provide pedestrian access, east-west, between buildings. Each one would be different, but they would all use the same plant material and street furniture; historic naval artifacts would be used where appropriate.

The existing Building 197 was then described. Mr. Luckey said it was built in 1939 and was typical of Navy Yard structures of that period, with a concrete frame, brick spandrel infill and industrial sash. The addition of Building 197E would keep that character but would be lower and consist of several building modules separated by recesses to break up the mass and the monotony of the long facade. Window frames would be dark bronze-anodized aluminum, to evoke the earlier industrial sash, with details kept very simple. A series of north-facing light monitors on the roof would further the industrial look. Across Isaac Hull Avenue from the east addition would be the new parking structure. It would evoke the scale and character of the two buildings to be demolished, and the two that would remain on either side. The Chairman asked what would be done to screen the cars. Mr. Luckey said that screening would be accomplished with parapets, 5 feet high on the ground floor and 3 1/2 feet on the upper floors.

Mr. Luckey then discussed the importance of Tingey Street, the connecting street between the Navy Yard and the Southeast Federal Center. He said it would become a major pedestrian street, with food concessions and other public commercial spaces, as well as access from the Navy Yard Metro. He said the Navy was interested in developing Building 22, at Tingey and Patterson, as a food concession and fitness center for Navy Yard staff.

Mr. Rorvig then discussed the waterfront park. He said it would be the first piece of a much larger statement along the Anacostia River as the Southeast Federal Center and adjacent parcels were developed. The plan was to turn the waterfront back to the pedestrians, the users and visitors to the Navy Yard and its ships and museum. There would be a broad promenade, with naval artifacts and ships on view, and diagonal walks, on axis with the existing piers, through a landscaped park.

Mr. Luckey then returned to a discussion of Building 197, which he said was the largest building in the Yard and would still be one of the largest in the future Navy Yard/Southeast Federal Center complex; he described it as coming out of the industrial automotive building tradition of Albert Kahn. He noted that its south elevation was highly visible from points outside the Navy Yard, and that the two vertical elements on this elevation, resembling stair towers, were the only punctuation points in the building's dominant horizontality. He showed drawings of the south elevation of the proposed addition, saying that they had attempted to counterpoint the massive weight of the existing building with a lighter, floating horizontality, using projecting elements in the curtainwall that would create horizontal shadow lines.

The Chairman said he was worried about the unrelenting horizontality of the west facade--over 500 feet long--as perceived along a narrow street, and wondered if there was any way of breaking it up, perhaps by expressing in some way the two interior light courts that were to be introduced. Mr. Luckey said they had specifically been asked not to break it up by members of the historic preservation community. There was a discussion of how existing elements at pedestrian level might be emphasized slightly to help break up the horizontality, and Mr. Luckey commented that much of the west elevation was obscured by the power house, 30 feet away, so it would not be as much of a problem as it appeared when looking at the drawings. He then talked about the original uses of the building, commenting on the large overhead cranes used in the manufacture of huge 16-inch guns. He said two of them would be restored and used as the visual focus of the light courts. The Chairman observed that there might be an opportunity here to use some banners or other hanging art to

add a little festivity to the building. He asked if the other members had questions for Mr. Luckey or Mr. Rorvig.

Mrs. Rose asked why trees were to be planted on only one side of Patterson Avenue. Mr. Rorvig said the reason was that they were trying to establish a hierarchy of streets, and Patterson was a less important street than Isaac Hull. Mr. Carson commented that at an interagency meeting on the development of the Navy Yard, it was stressed that the historic industrial character of parts of the Yard should be kept, and in these areas there never were any trees.

Mrs. Brody asked if the park would be constructed at the same time the other work was being done; she was told by Mr. Rorvig that it would be. The Chairman asked about maintenance, commenting on the unsightly conditions seen at the Naval Station in Anacostia. Mr. Rorvig said he did not think the Naval Sea Systems Command would tolerate poor maintenance, and Mr. Luckey said that with the development of the Southeast Federal Center the number of users would be such that a good maintenance program would be essential.

There were no further questions, and the design development was unanimously approved. Exhibit B

B. General Services Administration

CFA 17/OCT/96-2, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Metropolitan Field Office, F and 4th streets, N.W. Art in Architecture Program. Proposed sculptural work. Staff member Sue Kohler recalled the approval of the final design for this building in 1994, with the expectation that the art, provided for by GSA's Art in Architecture Program, would be seen later. She said the artist selected, Vito Acconci, was present to describe his proposal for sculpture, and she also noted the presence of several representatives from the FBI and of Rob Stewart from GSA. She asked Mr. Stewart to begin the presentation.

Mr. Stewart said Mr. Acconci had been commissioned in February and had been working very closely with GSA, the FBI, and the architects for the building, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. He said that GSA had convened its arts panel recently to listen to Mr. Acconci's presentation, and for the most part had approved the project, with a number of issues still to be resolved with the FBI and SOM. In the intervening time some changes had been made, with the result that the FBI had now indicated they were very satisfied with the project. Mr. Stewart then turned the presentation over to Mr. Acconci.

Mr. Acconci said he had gone through a relatively long process to arrive at the scheme to be presented at this

meeting, because there had been a number of disagreements with the architect and the client. He had started with a design based on a kind of framework replica of the building, which had not been acceptable to SOM, and then turned to a landscape scheme focused on a lawn in front of the building which would be usable by people; that had not been acceptable to the FBI. After a number of discussions among all those involved, the present scheme had been developed.

The concept was that parts of the lawn, in abstract, curvilinear shapes, would separate from the main body and start tilting up, or sideways, while some would actually break free and float in a pool of water, moved by the action of the water jets. The attempt was at least to involve passersby mentally, if they could not be involved physically. Mr. Acconci said he hoped they would see it as something to be resolved, something that was always breaking loose, but could always be resolved, or put together again. He noted that for budgetary reasons the design would be confined to the corners of the lawns. He said the edges of the pieces would be of some reflective material, perhaps brushed aluminum or stainless steel, so that light would reflect off the edges. There would be light in the water, probably at the edge of the pool, so at night the pieces would be hovering as in a night-lit sky, except that the sky would be water. The bottom of the pool would be painted black, to give it the quality of a reflecting pool.

Mr. Stewart commented that the walls defining the lawn areas were already in place, and that had determined to some extent the design of the sculpture. He asked Mr. Acconci to discuss the development of the concept for the floating pieces. Mr. Acconci said that when he first proposed the scheme, he had separated the lawn into clearly defined jigsaw puzzle parts, so that the floating sections were literally parts of a puzzle. The FBI had objected strenuously to this; Mr. Acconci said he thought it was because they saw it as an over-simplification of what the FBI did, in a sense changing the FBI into a children's game. And so he had changed the pieces somewhat to get rid of the obvious puzzle connotation. He showed the members an early model of the puzzle scheme, saying that he had at first been reluctant to alter it, but now really thought it was better. He remarked that someone in his studio had said that the trouble with the jigsaw puzzle concept was that with a puzzle you have to pick up the piece to put it back; now, with the softened edges, the pieces could actually float and slide back.

Mrs. Rose asked what kind of grass he planned to use. Mr. Acconci said that had not yet been determined but was being studied. Mrs. Rose then asked if the height of the walls varied. Mr. Stewart said that because of a grade change

they would vary from about knee height to chest height, and that would become clear when they visited the site.

The Vice-Chairman said he liked the symbolism--that some pieces don't fit, and some are missing; he thought it fit the FBI's reputation for solving complex problems, as did the low, horizontal profile. Mrs. Rose said she did not even think of it as a puzzle, but more as a globe with land masses breaking away. Mr. Acconci observed that passersby at sidewalk level would probably not be aware of the puzzle aspect. The Chairman commented that the limitations imposed on Mr. Acconci had actually stimulated his creativity, and that this was often the case with art. Exhibit C

D. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. Appendix I. The Appendix was approved without objection.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. Appendix II. The Appendix was approved without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Site Inspection, FBI, Washington Metropolitan Field Office.

The Commission, accompanied by Mr. Acconci and Mr. Stewart, inspected the site for the proposed sculpture. The concept design was unanimously approved, but there was a strong recommendation that the kind of groundcover to be used should receive thorough study, and that a way should be found to guarantee adequate maintenance.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton".

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

25 October 1996

EXHIBIT A

Dear Mr. Miller:

During its meeting of 17 October 1996, the Commission was pleased to approve the "25%" concept design submission for the proposed National Museum of the American Indian on the Mall. The members continue to be impressed by the design team's efforts and the unique contribution the NMAI will make to the Mall experience. Clearly, the proposed building, together with its integral landscaping, appears well on the way to providing Washington with a first-rate facility within the context of the foreground of the Capitol. Still, there remain a few minor questions that the designers might address.

The current configuration of the penthouse seems to give it more prominence than would appear necessary or desirable. In effect, it may overpower the dome. Recognizing that the location of the elevator bank is a given, perhaps the remainder of the penthouse could be shifted and softened a bit. In addition, the members understand that its height (at least in part) is dictated by the inclusion of clerestory windows which are designed to provide light to a bank of "inboard" offices. If skylights could be substituted for the clerestories, that portion of the penthouse could be made considerably lower in profile.

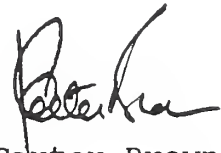
Another suggestion focussed on the tall window slit on Maryland Avenue which admits light into the "Potomac" from the south. To some of us, this device had a defensive connotation which may not be the effect the architect intended. One simple solution might be the addition of a second opening, making the "barrel" of the Potomac less "keep-like".

At this time, the Commission extends its tentative approval to the selection of materials. The pink limestone, quartzite, granite, caststone, river stone and "grandfather" boulders seem eloquent choices. Layering the limestone in random bands is a splendid concept for the elevations. Several of the members were especially taken with a vision of the delicately hued stratification of the Canyon de Chelly formation in Arizona. With respect to the glass, while the UV-protective material shown has only a light tint, there are new products on the market that might allow a selection of glass that would be even clearer. Needless to say, the final selection of materials must be made on site in the full light of day.

Page 2
Mr. Miller

The members look forward to the next review. In the meantime, the staff is available should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Carter Brown', with a stylized, cursive script.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Patrick Miller, Director
Office of Physical Plant
Smithsonian Institution

cc.: Richard West, Director NMAI
Douglas Cardinal
Steven Wittry, GBQC
Roger Courtenay, EDAW

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24 October 1996

EXHIBIT B

Dear Mr. Earle:

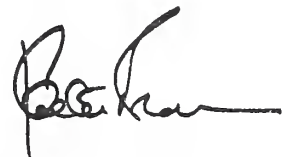
During its meeting 17 October 1996, the Commission reviewed and approved the proposed designs for Phase I of the Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters at the Navy Yard. The presentation by Jim Luckey of Smith Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Inc., and by Tim Rorvig of Johnson Johnson & Roy, Inc. included the rehabilitation of Building 197, its addition of 197 East, a garage structure for 1500 cars, which would replace Buildings 143 and 28, and adjacent site improvements, including the waterfront.

The Commission understands that Building 197 is a landmark and is pleased with the preservation of this and other historic structures in the Navy Yard. However, there may be a way of enlivening the pedestrian experience along its 500 foot long west elevation.

Your approach to the design of the waterfront is appreciated. As suggested by your consultants, the end result should be coordinated with the Southeast Federal Center. In this regard, a dialogue should be established with GSA concerning designs for pedestrian amenities and other visual elements so as to make the best of the waterfront.

We look forward to the presentation of Phase II when ready.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Lawrence P. Earle
Department of the Navy
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake
Washington Navy Yard Building 212
901 M Street, SE
Washington DC 20374-5018

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EXHIBIT C

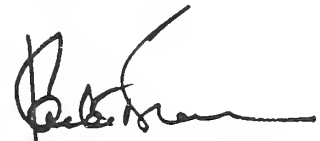
24 October 1996

Dear Mr. Peck:

At its 17 October meeting the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the concept design for a sculpture/landscape installation in front of the local FBI headquarters building, and afterwards visited the site with the sculptor, Vito Acconci, and Robert Stewart, the representative from GSA.

The Commission was pleased with the concept and approved it. The primary concern focused on the groundcover--what plant material would be selected and how well it would be maintained. The Commission looks forward to further review, and will expect to see other aspects of the design, such as lighting, water jets, and detailing of the movable pieces, when they are ready.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown,
Chairman

Robert A. Peck, Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
18th & F streets, N.W., Room 6344
Washington, D. C. 20405

cc: Robert Stewart

